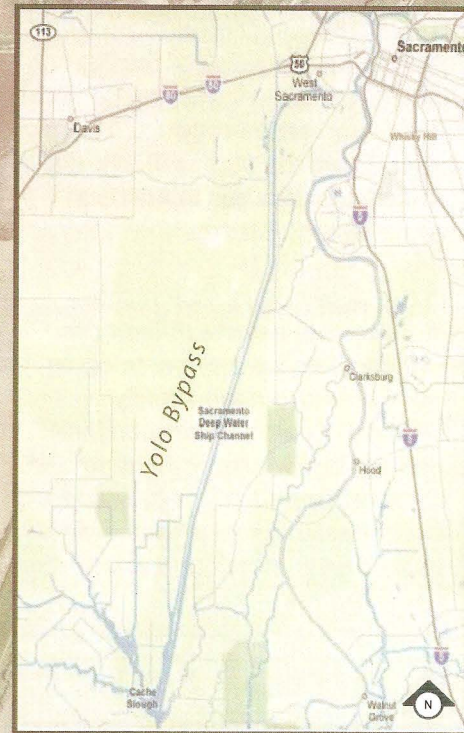


Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lower Yolo Bypass is the southern most portion of Yolo Bypass (Bypass) including Prospect and Liberty Island, Little Holland Tract, Ryer Island, Egbert Tract and other adjacent properties. The Bypass is a leveed, 59,000-acre floodplain on the west side of the lower Sacramento River in California's Yolo and Solano Counties. Located within the boundaries and levees of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, the Bypass carries floodwaters from several northern California waterways to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). The Bypass is a diverse mosaic of publicly and privately owned agricultural lands and managed wetland habitats. The Bypass is also an important resource for bird-watching, hunting, fishing and environmental education.

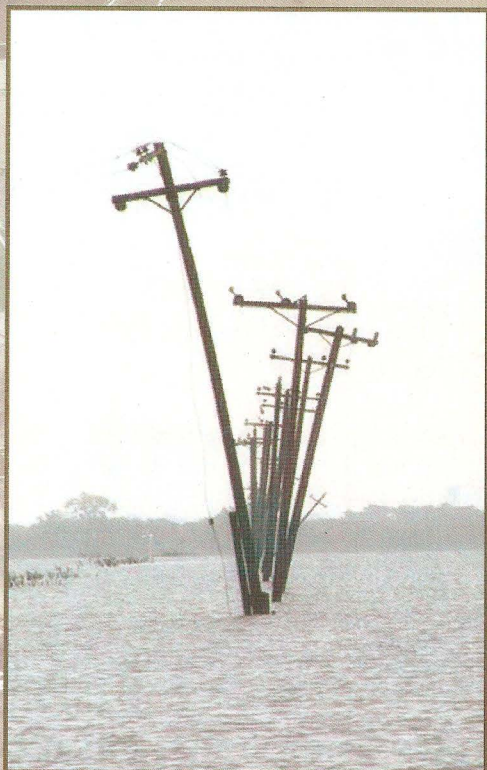
Lower Bypass lands are owned by private parties, public agencies, and land conservation groups. Most of the Lower Bypass is used for agriculture and privately managed habitat. Some lands/levees have fallen into disrepair, creating flooded conditions. These flooded areas offer many habitat benefits but also pose management challenges.



ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE BYPASS

While land owners, recreational users and agencies have varied opinions about Lower Bypass issues, nearly everyone agrees that without uniform management guidelines, conditions will further degrade over time. Issues of concern in the Lower Bypass include:

- Public land ownership and the impact to private lands,
- Public use problems ("squatting", hunting/fishing violations, illegal activities, etc.),
- Emergency service challenges due to inaccessible land/water conditions,
- Flood management related to levee breaches, levee maintenance and insufficient funding,
- Habitat restoration opportunities,
- Flood conveyance impacts due to habitat restoration activities, and
- Water quality issues such as mercury methylation



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To address these issues, the Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) and the Delta Protection Commission, with generous funding from the California Department of Fish and Game have formed the Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum (Forum). The Forum is a result of the Foundation's work with the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) in 2005 to assess the feasibility of a stakeholder process to address Lower Bypass issues.

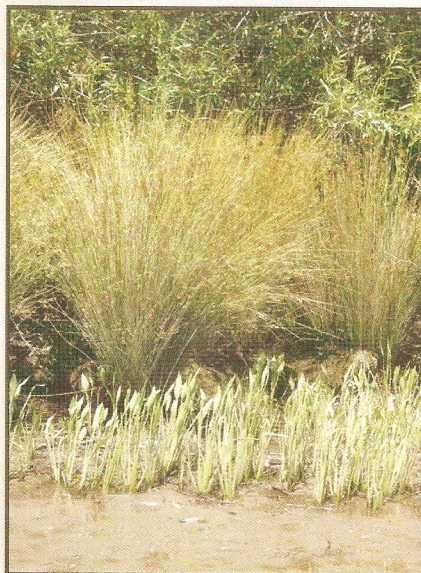
In the assessment, CCP recommended that despite differences, stakeholders were closer to agreement on issues than initially believed. This condition, combined with the overwhelming need to craft solutions, provides a unique opportunity to design a meaningful, long term management approach for the Lower Bypass.



THE STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

The Forum will be a collaborative, multi-party consensus process to recommend mutually acceptable management solutions. Participants will have equal weight in the recommendation process. Participants in the project are expected to include:

- The Trust for Public Land
- Local Hunting Clubs
- Adjacent Reclamation Districts
- Private Lower Bypass Land Owners
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Water Resources
- CALFED
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- Yolo County
- Solano County
- City of Rio Vista
- Technical Specialists



The Forum will be fully integrated with related Delta projects and sponsors.

PROJECT SPONSORSHIP



yolo basin foundation

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